

Rock Creek Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



February, 2015

Schedule of Events

www.nps.gov/rocr

202-895-6070



Join in Celebrating Rock Creek Park's 125th Anniversary!

February includes Black History month, President's Day weekend, and Valentine's Day! Join a park ranger or park partner for a unique program in honor of these themes. Look below for programs bolded in this dark red color for details.

Weekly Programs

Wednesdays

- **Young Planetarium** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Children ages four and up are invited to explore the night sky and listen to star stories.

Fridays

- **Creature Feature** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Children of all ages are invited to learn about Rock Creek Park's wild critters during this interactive program featuring live turtles and snakes.

Saturdays

- **Winter Night Sky** 1:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Discover tonight's brightest stars, planets and constellations and hear their stories in the Rock Creek Park planetarium. **Ages 5 and up.**
- **Exploring the Universe** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Explore the solar system, milky way galaxy, and deep space objects in this high- tech planetarium program. **Ages 7 and up.**

Sundays

- **Winter Night Sky** 1:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Discover tonight's brightest stars, planets and constellations and hear their stories in the Rock Creek Park planetarium. **Ages 5 and up.**
- **Under African Skies** 4:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Discover African star stories while exploring constellations of the southern hemisphere. Listen to *Follow the Drinking Gourd*, a folk song connected to escaped slaves from the 1850s, and trace its possible hidden meanings. **Ages 7 and up.**

Special Programs

Saturday, February 7

- **Fort Stevens Ranger Talk** 10:00 a.m. at Fort Stevens By the close of the Civil War, Washington, DC was the most heavily fortified city in North America. The fortification included 68 earthwork forts reaching from lower Maryland to northern Virginia. Join a walking tour of this fort.
- **Rock Creek Park Civil War Round Table "Pvt. John B. Whiting and the Battle of Petersburg"** 9:30 a.m. at the Nature Center Historian Burnell Irby will discuss the Civil War service of Pvt. John B. Whiting of the 5th Massachusetts Volunteer Calvary in the Battle of Petersburg and subsequent capture of Richmond, VA.
- **African American History Hike** 11:00 a.m. at Peirce Mill Discover some of the stories of African Americans in Rock Creek Park on a three- mile hike with Volunteer Lisa Struckmeyer.

Thursday, February 12

- **Fort Slocum Talk** 1:00 p.m. at Fort Slocum By the close of the Civil War, Washington, DC was the most heavily fortified city in North America. The fortification included 68 earthwork forts reaching from lower Maryland to northern Virginia. Join a walking tour of this fort.

Saturday, February 14

- **Love to Craft** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Calling all kids! Join park staff for creative fun as we make a Valentine's Day themed craft and discover the love of butterflies in Rock Creek Park.
- **Winter Weeding Day** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join in the battle against invasive plants and assist in the ongoing restoration efforts of Dumbarton Oaks Park during this public, open- to- all volunteer event. For more information and to register, visit www.dopark.org/volunteer.

Sunday, February 15

- **Georgetown Presidential Stroll** 10:00 a.m. at the Georgetown Waterfront Park fountain Do you know who Georgetown is named after? What are its connections to American presidents? Come on a one- mile walk through Georgetown with volunteer Michael Zwelling celebrating presidents, with a focus on George Washington in honor of his birthday.

Saturday, February 21

- **Buds** 10:00 a.m. at the Nature Center Join our friends from Casey Trees for tree- focused story time interspersed with songs and a craft project. Each family will leave with a list of seasonally appropriate "scavenger hunt items" to track down while exploring the trails on their own after the program. **Ages 18 months to 4 years.** Please register with Casey trees (not required) at <http://caseytrees.org/events/upcoming/>
- **Secret Garden Stroll – Winter Edition** 1:00 p.m. Celebrate Rock Creek Park's 125th anniversary by taking a 1.25 mile stroll through Dumbarton Oaks Park with Scott Einberger, author of 'A History of Rock Creek Park: Wilderness and Washington, D.C.' Discover the history of the park and restoration work being done to save this hidden 27 acre wild garden designed by pioneering female landscape architect Beatrix Farrand. Please email scott@dopark.org to RSVP for this free tour.

Sunday, February 22

- **USCT and the defenses of Washington** 2:00 p.m. at the Nature Center Join Ranger Aaron in the auditorium to explore the role of the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Visitors will see photographs of the soldiers and the uniform items the USCT soldiers would have worn.

Thursday, February 26

- **Fort Reno Tenleytown "Top of the Town"** 1:00 p.m. at Fort Reno By the close of the Civil War, Washington, DC was the most heavily fortified city in North America. The fortification included 68 earthwork forts reaching from lower Maryland to northern Virginia. Join a walking tour of this fort.

Saturday, February 28

- **Winter Weeding Day** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join in the battle against invasive plants and assist in the ongoing restoration efforts of Dumbarton Oaks Park during this public, open- to- all volunteer event. For more information and to register, visit www.dopark.org/volunteer.
- **It's Miller Time** 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Peirce Mill Imagine millstones grinding away. Be sure to uncover the reasons why conditions are not suitable to run the mill in the dead of winter. Tour the mill and learn how the mill operated and find out what millers did in the winter time. **Ages 6 and up.**
- **The African American Experience at Peirce Mill** 1:30 p.m. at Peirce Barn The family that owned Peirce Mill had the second highest number of enslaved people in DC at the time of the Civil War. Steve Dryden will discuss slaveholding at the mill and what is known about the people who were freed when the District ended slavery.

Rock Creek Park Visitor Center Locations and Hours

Nature Center & Planetarium = 5200 Glover Road, NW. Open Wednesday through Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Hiking trail maps and park information, plant and animal exhibits, bookstore.

Peirce Mill = 2401 Tilden Street, NW. Closed winter months except special events.

Old Stone House = 3051 M Street, NW. Open daily, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Early American home, self guided tours, bookstore.